

Australian

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PUBLICATION OF THE VICTORIAN U.F.O. RESEARCH SOCIETY

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AUSTRALIAN RESEARCHERS MEET AT TERRIGAL

Twenty two researchers from five states met for a three day conference on October 4, 5 and 6 at the Cobb & Co. Motor Inn in Terrigal, N.S.W. Arranged jointly by UFO Research (SA) and the Centre for UFO Studies - Australian Co-ordination Section, the conference, designated "UFO CONFERENCE ONE", was not open to the public, but was designed as a meeting of delegates representing the research elements of the various investigating groups, and some individual investigators. The primary purpose was to plan ways of achieving co-ordination and co-operation among Australian investigators. In attendance representing VUFORS were: secretary Ray Fischer, assistant librarian Lea Bristol, and research assistant Michael McNamara.

Conference chairman was Mr. Keith Basterfield, of UFORSA, who, in his welcoming address, introduced the participants, and then read an extract from a letter received from Dr. J. A. Hynek, director of CUFOs, in which Dr. Hynek expressed his best wishes for the success of the conference. Mr. Basterfield regretted that the RAAF had declined an invitation to have a representative in attendance. The chairman's closing words were that in the past the various Australian UFO groups had internal problems due to personality clashes and sheer distance. He remarked that he hoped the conference would enable a new era of co-operation to begin.

After brief talks by each of the major organisations and individuals, giving a summary of their history and activities, a number of papers were presented. Dr. Don Herbison-Evans, a physicist of Sydney University, spoke on the use of diffraction gratings in UFO photography, and described his interest in the gathering of data concerning spectra, and also the use of polaroid material. A short technical rundown on their use was given. In a paper entitled "TUFOIC - 10 Years of Investigation", Paul Jackson of the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre said that TUFOIC was conceived in October, 1965, and had an active early history with public interest in the subject being very high. Visits by Dr. James McDonald in 1967 and Dr. Hynek in 1973 stimulated Tasmanian interest in the subject. A history of reports in Tasmania was given, with such reports as

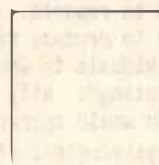
(Continued on page 2.)

IMPORTANT: INCREASED SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The Committee regrets that, due to rising general costs, and in particular the recent substantial increase in postage, the Society has been forced to increase membership subscription rates. The new postage rates will almost double the Society's mailing expenses, and, since subscription fees have not been increased since the early sixties, it was felt that some increase is essential. The new annual fees, to operate immediately, are:

Australian members: Adults.....\$5.00
 Pensioners & Juniors.....\$3.00
 (Juniors under 18 - please state age)
 Overseas membersUS\$5.00.

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UFO CONFERENCE (Continued)

Cressy and Lynchford being recalled. Events occurring in the "flap" of 1974 in the north east of the island were described. TUFOIC as a group does not make statements as to the cause of the UFO phenomenon except to say that it exists as a fact and deserves attention on a scientific level.

Dr. Geoff Stevens, a NSW professional metallurgist, in a slide-illustrated talk entitled "Analysis of Physical Trace Case Histories", gave an appreciation of what can be done in regard to the analysis of material in relation to UFO events. Details of the investigation of a metallic fragment, a deposit on grass, and a ground ring were given. The metallic fragment was found 20 feet under the ground surface. It was cut up, polished and etched, examined and photographed. It was mainly iron with some unusual looking precipitates. It was not a meteorite, space debris, not volcanic, and appeared to be an industrial silvery pig iron product. An example of the ever present ground "rings", found in NSW, was shown. The pH, electrical conductivity of water from the soil, and spectrographic details were similar between the affected area and control samples. Fungus activity was the cause.

Michael Smyth and David Buching, of Sydney UFOIC, in their joint talk "UFO Investigation Procedure", noted that in UFO reports there are two sources of error - witness perception, and errors in the investigation system. During an event the witness observes, remembers, and later recalls. Personal bias may read details into their observation. Inaccuracies in reporting to the investigator may come from the length of time since the event, and their inability to describe what they saw. Standardisation of collection processes was considered essential, with report forms and statistics being two areas to examine. The training of investigators in investigation techniques rather than identification of natural phenomena was commented upon. The pursuit of second hand reports was felt to be desirable to increase the number of reports coming in. Equipment of use in investigations was outlined, in two basic kits. Lists of Australia wide newspapers were distributed and the values of press releases outlined.

In "Suggested Ways of Approaching Future Research", Ray Fischer of VUFORS gave five areas of possible research: (1) examination of physical traces, (2) analysis of photographic and radar evidence, (3) interviewing of witnesses to close encounters, (4) studies of anthropological, archaeological and other such fields, (5) statistical research. It was thought that the Centre's methods and programs should be useful in compiling an Australian catalogue of cases for our own use in statistical studies on a large volume of data. Scepticism among the press and general public might be overcome by publicity involving statements by qualified scientists in the Centre. A national journal of research would enable organisations on an Australia wide basis to maintain themselves up to date, plus act as a channel for a continuous catalogue. No interpretation on a personal level should be made, but the collection of data and effective research of the subject should be our first priority.

Speaking on "UFO Detectors", Noel Barron, of Qld. UFO Research Bureau, said that many cases are on record which illustrate the electromagnetic effects of UFOs. Detectors can be built which react to magnetic field changes. A detector at Tully, north Qld, linked to a movie camera, was triggered and film taken several years ago. Technical details of current detector systems were elaborated upon.

Bill Chalker, a NSW industrial chemist, gave a paper entitled "UFO Flaps - A Context For Scientific Study", in which he said that UFO phenomena had largely been ignored by science to date, due to (a) lack of repeatable observations which can be documented, and (b) the inflexibility of science to adjust. This might be overcome by (1) documenting "flap" areas, (2) getting science to acquaint itself with the phenomena and surrounding literature. It is necessary to document repeated observations of UFOs in one area. In Australia we have had Tully, 1966, mid-north SA in the sixties, and the New England area of NSW in 72-73, which have exhibited the tendency to generate repeated cases. Details of personal investigations into the New England area were given with respect to visual, audio and other events, and these were compared with various other areas. Protracted field investigations and documentation of flap areas was recommended.

In his paper "Smoke or Fire", David Seargent of ACOS, said that our problem was how to study a UFO once the event had ended. Three ways presented themselves: firstly we look at any physical traces believed left behind, then the witness, and also the area in which the event occurred. The first line of evidence is generally considered best, but little hard data had come forward. Secondly we can examine the witness, as all events, including radar-visual, require an interpreter. As a general rule reporters tend to be normal folk from a cross-section of life. However, one study of a sample of UFO reporters revealed that an unusually large number of them were deep trance hypnotic subjects. It was suggested that a line of research could be followed to establish whether people who are most likely to have a UFO experience are also those who are most likely to have psychic experiences.

A talk by Dr. Ralph Molnar, a professional biologist, of Sydney, was given on "UFOs and the Philosophy of Science", in which he likened the advancement of science to the development of a country such as France, in which progress was made in a series of normal periods and "revolutions". During normal periods of science scientists believe they have a firm grip on knowledge, and revolutions were precipitated by anomalies which required a reconstruction of old views. UFOs in a sense constitute an anomaly because their behaviour cannot be explained in physical laws, and the standard reaction to an anomaly has been to ignore it and hope it would go away. UFOs have not. Sometimes ideas are not accepted because science has no understanding of a mechanism which might cause it. The suggestion of some kind of mechanism for UFO phenomena might provide science with a reason for looking at it.

Colin Phillips of QUFORB presented guidelines for good public liaison speaking on "Public Liaison and UFOs". Matters relating to the running of a UFO investigating organisation were discussed, and how they can achieve a good public image. Operations should be on a businesslike level, and newsletters and public lectures could be used to promote the subject.

Following the presentation of papers, a number of topics were dealt with in informal discussion sessions. Some of the major items discussed were:

- (1) "What resources have we available for analysis of physical trace cases and how can we collectively use them?" ACOS will find out about computer programs that the Centre uses in USA, and see if we can use them here. The investigation guide for physical trace cases will be updated and broadened. Dr. Stevens offered his assistance in the field of analysis of material, especially in his field of metallurgy. Frank Gillespie offered to look at photographic material presented to UFO groups.
- (2) "How can we more easily pass information between ourselves?" It was agreed that each group should maintain its newsletters, and look at the eventual expansion of the ACOS Bulletin. We should increase the exchange of copies of slides, pictures, movies, and reports. Research projects on specific topics should be circulated.
- (3) "How can we improve our status and professionalism in the eyes of science?" We need to succeed in our attempts to present the subject as one needing scientific examination. We should encourage constructive publicity and attack negative or crackpot elements. It was felt that serious recognition of the subject will come with the passage of time as old ideas and prejudices fade.
- (4) How can we take an active rather than a passive role in the collecting of data. e.g. maintaining watch for recognising the start of a local flap, then sending teams to the area for a protracted stay? Flap areas provide the best way to collect data as opposed to reports. We should work at picking up such areas as they begin to generate reports, and also predicting areas likely to produce cases.
- (5) "Appointment of individuals to whom specific types of UFO encounters should be sent", and (6) "Participation in close encounter catalogue updating": Bill Chalker and Keith Basterfield are working on an Australian low level and close encounter catalogue, and would appreciate items of this nature. If possible, catalogues of such cases as car stops, magnetic effects and physiological effects should be prepared. Anyone wishing to work on cataloguing should circulate

UFO CONFERENCE (Continued)

the fact and ask for everyone's assistance.

(7) "The possibility of establishing a good quality magazine for Australia wide use". This received some discussion owing to the present lack of such a magazine. Two schools of thought existed as to whether we needed a magazine for internal circulation between the groups or a general public one. The consensus of opinion was that we should look at one for general circulation. One of the participants was appointed to look into various possibilities.

(8) "Brief data on all known cases to be published perhaps in a journal as suggested in the prior topic". Catalogues of various types should cover this well. If a journal were established, this could be used to update catalogues.

(9) "The use of a single report form by all Australian groups". This was very well received and the necessity for doing this as soon as possible was appreciated by everybody. An individual was appointed to study the various forms now in use and to design a new one for common use throughout Australia.

(10) "Will there be a UFOCON 2 in 1976?" By unanimous decision, UFOCON 2 will be held in Mt. Gambier, SA, in October, 1976 to coincide with the total solar eclipse visible from there.

"How can we get accurate and quick reports to the media and improve the status of UFO groups?" We should continue to present the subject as a serious one which demands the attention of science. We should not make bold statements as to the nature, origin or purpose of UFOs, but try to convince the public that a phenomenon does exist which cannot at this stage be explained. Opportunities from the media should be taken, but between bad publicity and none at all, the latter should be chosen.

In his final comments at the end of the conference, the chairman said: "It looks like we will leave here with enough information and ideas to keep us working for the months to come. There have been a few details which might have been better arranged, but as we are aware, this conference was one where we were to feel our way, and I believe we have accomplished this quite successfully".

Earlier attempts at co-ordinating UFO research in Australia had foundered for a variety of reasons, but it was obvious from the outset of UFOCON ONE that all participants were unanimous in their enthusiasm for a new spirit of national co-operation. Harry Greisberg advised participating groups that ACOS is their organisation and that it is not intended to try to form a single "super group" in this country. Active individual groups co-operating with each other, and co-ordinating their activities and results via ACOS was the ideal situation for this country.

Great credit must go to Harry Greisberg and David Seargent, the directors of ACOS, for their hard work in bringing off such a conference successfully. They were well assisted by Keith Basterfield, of UFORSA, who, as chairman, is to be congratulated for his excellent job in maintaining a businesslike approach with a level of informality.

UFO OBSERVATION WITH MOVIE FILM CONFIRMATION

Sunday, 15/6/1975; time 0745 - 0815 approx. Weather conditions at the time were reported to be clear sky, some fog patches, no wind. The three witnesses were three young men: C, 25, bus-driver; and two brothers - W, 20, motor mechanic, and E, 22, fitter.

The three witnesses were travelling by car north along the Hume Highway en route to a car-racing meeting at Hume Weir. At about 7.45 a.m. (exact time not noted, but estimated from memory), at a position estimated to be about 20 miles on the Melbourne side of Benalla, W alerted the others to an object above a hill, and in a direction at about 30 degrees to the right of their direction of travel. The object was described as spindle-shaped, or like a distinct fluorescent light tube, brightly glowing a dull orange or yellow. The object was apparently hovering, or perhaps slow-moving, at an elevation estimated at about 30 degrees. At first sight the object had its long axis vertical, but, after a couple of minutes the object executed a slow rotation about its midpoint to become horizontal, and its orientation now appeared to be with its long axis perpendicular to the road. This operation took an estimated two minutes. After a few more minutes the object began to move slowly towards the left across the road ahead of them.

At about this stage they observed a second object, similar to the first, but appearing to be about three times the apparent size, or much closer. This second object was in roughly the same relative direction from the car as the first had originally appeared, but at a higher elevation, estimated at about 60 degrees. The second object now descended to the same elevation as the first, and they both moved across the road, seeming to keep a constant distance apart, estimated at about 5 degrees. When the two objects had reached a position on the left hand side of the road in a direction at about 45 degrees to their direction of travel, W, who was sitting in the rear left hand seat, filmed one of the objects for 20 or 30 seconds through the window of the moving car. Which of the two objects was filmed he was not sure, but later examination of the film suggested that it was the second of the two reported. After the filming the objects slowly moved together further away ahead of the car, and eventually disappeared into the distance.

The above account is based on a first interview with the two brothers, followed by a later separate interview with W alone. The times and angles quoted should not be taken as accurate estimates, but as mere guesses in response to questions asked. The witnesses were not very confident about estimating the objects' angular sizes, but W thought that the first object when appearing at its largest might be about equal to the moon's diameter. He agreed that distances and sizes were unknown, but he had the impression that the first object was two or three miles away when first sighted, and was perhaps two or three hundred feet in length, while the second object appeared to be much larger, possibly six or seven hundred feet in length. In short, both witnesses thought that the objects were at a considerable distance, and much larger than aeroplanes.

The third witness, C, verified the main details in a later telephone conversation, although he thought the objects were further away, perhaps 10 or 15 miles. He was particularly impressed by the rotation manoeuvre.

At no time did the car stop. The entire observation took place from the moving vehicle. As no precise times were noted, there was some uncertainty about the length of time the objects were in view, but it was agreed that it must have been something between 15 and 30 minutes. The two brothers could not recall passing through any town while watching the objects, while C thought the objects were still visible, far in the distance, as they passed through Benalla, although he could not be sure of this. The estimated speed of the car during the observation was 55 mph, so it seems that the observation took place somewhere between Violet Town and Benalla.

The witnesses reported no effects on the functioning of the car, nor did they experience any physiological reactions. They could not remember passing any other cars going the same way, but noticed that the occupants of a car travelling some distance behind were also aware of the objects. However, they were not interested in flagging down this car, and explained their failure to stop at any stage as due to their feeling of some apprehension due to the objects' presence.

The witnesses said that neither of the objects appeared to have any material structure - they were merely luminous phenomena with no apparent means of propulsion. All three seemed greatly impressed by the unusual nature of these objects, and they were sure that there was no possibility that they could be explained by any phenomenon known to them.

The camera used was a Super Alstar 8 mm movie camera, with f/1.8 Alstar reflex zoom lens, with focal length from 8.5 to 42.5 mm, set on infinity using maximum zoom setting. The film was shot at 18 frames/sec on 25 ASA Agfachrome. The film clearly shows a luminous spindle shaped object, and gives unobstructed views of the object against clear sky, as well as relative motion behind trees on the side of the road.

(continued)

MOVIE FILM (Continued)

A typical frame shows the image to be roughly equal to one tenth of the width of the frame in length. A rough test to calculate the angle of the view taken in by the camera was made, and from this, the length of the object would be something like one half to one degree, which is in rough agreement with W's estimate of the angular size.

The only possibility coming to mind to explain this case would be jet vapour trails. A photographic technician who has seen the film has stated his initial impression that the image is not a vapour trail. When it was suggested to W that the object photographed might have been a vapour trail, he rejected the idea at once, stating that he was quite familiar with the appearance of such trails. The film is still under examination by technical consultants, and we are awaiting further reports.

Ray Fischer.

EAST BURWOOD PHENOMENON

A Melbourne man claims he has made a number of UFO observations over past months in the East Burwood area. Some UFO researchers tend to dismiss the reports of witnesses who claim to see many UFOs, arguing that because genuine UFOs are very rare, the probability that one individual will have a number of sightings is virtually zero. They argue that such multiple UFO reporters are gullible fanatics, intent on seeing as many UFOs as they possibly can, with little attempt to critically assess what was seen, or to look for a possible natural explanation.

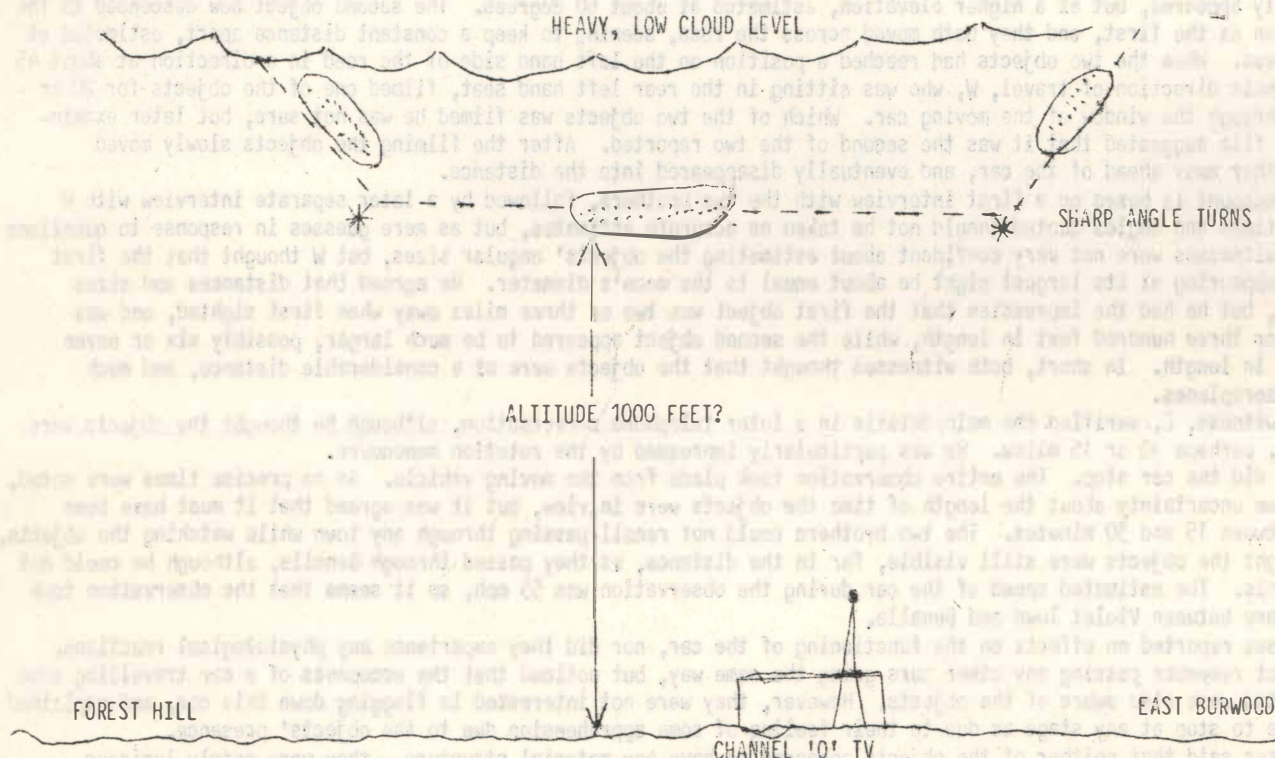
However, the witness concerned is a highly academically qualified man, and he impresses as a rational and competent observer, who does not appear to be gullible or uncritical. The observations described, sometimes seen as well by other members of his family, are mainly of the "lights in the sky" variety, which, on the surface, appear to be those borderline cases possibly explainable as aircraft. The witness is insistent that he is quite familiar with the appearance of aircraft, which he has dismissed as the explanation. He also states that he knows the major stars and planets, and is not confusing the phenomena seen with astronomical objects. He is aware of the sceptical attitude taken by some towards the multiple UFO-sighter, and desires to remain anonymous.

The most interesting of the phenomena witnessed occurred on May 31, at about 6 p.m. The witness was in his car with two of his daughters:

"...about a quarter of a mile from the Channel 'O' TV Station we saw a spectacular UFO demonstration. Immediately in front of us, and directly over the Channel 'O' TV Station, we saw a huge, fully lit phenomenon descend below the cloud level for a few seconds. In that time it performed two extraordinary manoeuvres of sharp angle turns without any arc, then suddenly disappeared. As we saw it there were masses of porthole-like windows, each brilliantly lit with a white light from within. There were too many windows to try counting - we were left only with an impression of its vastness. There were no coloured lights of any description anywhere to be seen. Nor were there any visible wings, undercarriages or other appendages: only a bulk of a craft with dozens of clearly identifiable separate windows, each glowing white.

Yet despite the spectacular nature of the appearance of the vehicle, it was the manoeuvres which convinced me I was looking at a UFO of some description. We actually saw it break cloud, fairly slowly, at an angle of about 60 degrees. Then abruptly it levelled flight briefly horizontal to the ground at about 1000 feet or so - but to do that it made a sharp angle turn of about 120 degrees, without any gradual turn of any sort: just an instantaneous change of direction. About two seconds later the vessel seemed to repeat the procedure to ascend, but I couldn't be sure. It seemed to make the ascent move and disappear all at the one time. We drove around the district searching for another sight of it for some time, but it didn't return on that occasion.

Below is a sketch to represent the movement. I have had to draw a figure to do this, but in fact the outline of the vessel was not as clear as it appears below....My eldest daughter, _____, recalls the phenomenon as having a bright light at either end of the vehicle, which I did not notice: I was more struck with the multitude of smaller windows. We agree on the sharp angle manoeuvres of the vehicle".



(Reproduction of witness's sketch)

Readers are reminded that VUFORS wants to hear about all UFO news. If you read an interesting article or a local sighting, please send us the clipping(or copy thereof, naming the paper and date). If you hear of a sighting, drop us a line and tell us all you know about it - even if it's only a rumour. It may be a lead of importance.

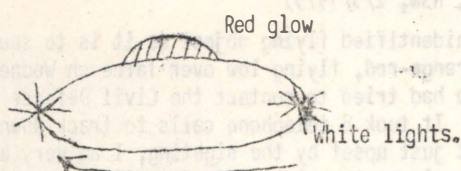
JULY LIGHTS IN THE SKY

A number of lights in the sky cases towards the end of July came to our attention. A spate of sightings were reported in the press from the Shepparton-Kyabram area, but, after examining the news clippings and making a visit to the area and interviewing some of the witnesses, we came away convinced that most of the reports were due to the planet Venus. This also appears to be the explanation for the incident at Maldon on July 21, which was widely reported in the Victorian press. We interviewed the witnesses and found that the times, directions, and angles were consistent with the setting of Venus, which was at about 8.45 p.m. at that time of the year.

There were several cases which were apparently not Venus, but which, although impressive enough to the witness, are of the "nocturnal light" type, which cannot be classed as definite unknowns. A case occurring on July 19 at 6.30 p.m. was described thus:

While driving in a northerly direction along Melcombe Road, Ivanhoe, I noticed two lights which seemed to be rotating around a common centre, and travelling in a westerly direction from around the Macleod area towards Preston. I stopped my car and my wife could also see the lights. They were travelling much faster than any aircraft I have ever seen. (Many commercial aircraft follow this route when approaching Tullamarine Airport). The object seemed to be below the clouds.

At one stage when the object was over Preston, the light struck it at a certain angle, and I could see a vague saucer outline with the two white lights rotating around the rim and a red dome type top light. This may have been wishful thinking but it appeared thus:-



The curious thing about the lights was the way in which they were rotating. I have seen many commercial aircraft in the area and none of them appeared like this. These lights rotated around each other as if they were on the edges of a spinning mass. The entire experience lasted about two minutes.

When I arrived home I phoned Tullamarine Airport and found that no aircraft had landed for at least 5 minutes prior to my call. I neglected to call Essendon Airport.

I cannot definitely say that it was a flying saucer, but I can find no explanation which covers this type of light movement. I was too far away to hear any noise if there was any.

The witness added that he stopped the car for him and his wife to watch the object. It was a mild night just after sunset, and the object was moving in a straight line under a cumulus overcast. He said that the rotating lights were a bright white - much brighter than stars - and their apparent distance apart was less than the moon's diameter. The rate of rotation of the lights appeared to be similar to that of a 33 rpm record.

A sighting on the night of July 21 was reported in the Shepparton News (30/7/1975):

Mrs. H. Tinkler, of Julia St., Kyabram, reported sighting a 'red blurry thing' moving in from the west towards the north east on Monday night of last week. Mrs. Tinkler was returning from Melbourne in the bus when she sighted the object near Girgarre.

"It was a reddish thing and had a red flame coming off its side". Mrs. Tinkler said she watched the object for a few minutes as it passed over.

Mrs. Tinkler made the sighting about 8 p.m. A similar sighting was made the same night at Maldon, near Castlemaine.

Mrs. Tinkler said she had no idea what it could have been. "It was about the size of a golf ball when I first saw it, but as it got closer to the bus and passed over, it appeared to be about the size of a tennis ball". Mrs. Tinkler distinctly remembers the red flame coming out of the object. "It was coming out of the side, not the front or the back. I hadn't seen anything like it before and wondered at the time what it could have been. Then I read about what the girls had seen the next night and it made me wonder".

The night after Mrs. Tinkler's sighting, three members of John Brown Industries Kyabram claimed they were followed in their car to Stanhope by a UFO. The girls, sisters Susan and Dianne Barber of Rushworth, and Vicky Schade of Stanhope, gave a vivid account of the eerie experience in Friday's paper....

We visited these three girls and, after hearing their story, decided that Venus was almost certainly responsible. They all finally agreed that this was probably the correct explanation. Unfortunately we have been unable to obtain any more details about the Mrs. Tinkler case, as she was not at home when we visited the area, and we have not had any response to a letter of request for information.

Another sighting was reported from Clunes (about 20 miles north of Ballarat), on either the same night as the Maldon and Tinkler reports, July 21, or the next night. The witness was uncertain of the exact date, and when giving details later said "...did not keep record - wanted to forget it all!" The witness was walking with his dogs at about 9.30 p.m. when he observed a pulsating, soundless, oval object hovering in the north east at about 45 degrees elevation. The object was "yellow at the base, then pale green, white at the top", and one eighth moon-size. It was "stationary for five minutes or more, then took off level with horizon too fast to estimate. Light cloud had obscured the sky. I thought I was looking at an unusual star, but the cloud was behind the object...I am not a specialist, but I saw what I saw. I was afraid because I felt I was not only observing but being observed. I cut my walk with my dogs short and hurried home".

A "twin light" phenomenon passing over Melbourne was independently reported by two Burwood witnesses early on the morning of July 25. This was the morning that the capsule of the joint Russian-American link-up mission passed over the city, but both witnesses are sure that this was not what was seen, and that the unknown followed the capsule overflight by about 10 minutes. One of the witnesses stated that he observed both the capsule and the unknown. He said he saw the spacecraft at 14 minutes '07, and described it as travelling at about satellite speed, but appeared brighter and redder than a satellite. He went inside for about 5 minutes, then came out again at 5 minutes to seven to see two bright white lights passing directly overhead. No sound was heard as the lights were in sight for about 30 seconds moving in a direction from SSW to NNE. All that could be seen were two white lights almost as bright as the evening star, maintaining a constant distance apart of about half to one degree. One of the lights remained at a constant intensity while the other appeared to have a slight intermittent pulsation. The witness was quite definite that the lights were not from planes.

The other witness reported that he was outside at 6.45 to watch the Apollo flyover, but failed to see it, probably because of patchy cloud. He waited about another 10 minutes, and at about 6.55 he saw the two lights pass over. He described them in almost the same terms as the other witness, although he reported that he could see what appeared to be a "grey-black tube" connecting the lights, whose orientation appeared to be at an oblique angle to their path. He said that they passed through some wispy cloud and the lights were of sufficient intensity to show through.

(Continued)

JULY LIGHTS (Continued)

Another night light, at about 10.30 p.m. on July 29, was reported by a Kyabram couple. The couple and their three children were travelling by car towards Kyabram along the Rochester-Kyabram road, when they noticed a hovering object to the north. They said it was at an elevation of about 45 degrees, and appeared to be a round white object about the size of a one cent coin at arm's length. The white light was steadily blinking on and off, with erratic red flashes, irregular in pattern and length, coming from the left hand side of the object. At this stage they were about 5 miles from Kyabram, travelling along a due east section of the road. A little further on the road makes a sweeping curve to turn due north, and as they travelled round the bend, the object passed overhead, moving quickly towards the south east, appearing to pass to the south of the town of Kyabram. After another three miles past this bend, the road turns east again to enter the town, and, arriving home, they could still see the object, apparently hovering to the south east of the house. Viewing the object through binoculars, which the husband admitted were of a cheap and inferior type, he said the object appeared to be moving slowly in a circle at an elevation of about 30 degrees. As the object moved it appeared from his position to describe a long horizontal ellipse, and now the red flashes were being emitted from the right hand side. They eventually gave up watching and went inside. The sighting had lasted 10 to 15 minutes.

HOW HARD IS IT TO GET HELP IN AN EMERGENCY?

(ManningRiver Times, Taree, NSW, 2/5/1975)

It seems it is almost as difficult to contact anybody about an unidentified flying object as it is to see one. Two Taree women saw what they described as a large flying saucer, flashing orange-red, flying low over Taree on Wednesday night. One of the UFO-spotters, Miss B. Ford of Macquarie St., Taree, said she had tried to contact the Civil Defence but couldn't find their number. She also tried Taree Police but received no answer. It took 8 telephone calls to track down a number to ring Civil Defence. By that time the saucer had disappeared. "I am not just upset by the sighting, I am very angry that in what could be a national emergency a civilian cannot locate the right people at the right time from the phone book", Miss Ford said. "This whole country could be taken over or we could be murdered before anyone could contact the right authority".

Miss Ford and her sister, Miss Marion Ford, were standing in the front garden of their home in Macquarie St. at 9.20 p.m. when they sighted the saucer. They watched it until it disappeared in the distance over towards Bays Hill. It was flying fairly low, and Miss Ford described it as an "orangey red flashing circle of light, very large in size".

Yesterday morning two pupils of Miss Marion Ford told her they had been frightened by the same sight earlier in the evening. They said they had been standing in the street at Bays Hill some time after 7 p.m. when the saucer had flown low over their heads leaving a sparkling trail behind it.

Miss Ford said she wished to make an appeal for a civil defence number to be put in the telephone book with emergency calls. "With the organisation we have in Australia today for defence we won't have time to think about defending our country in a national emergency", she said.

UFO SIGHTINGS ARE CONTINUING

(Maryborough (Q) Chronicle, 27/6/75)

There were two more reports of sightings of UFOs yesterday. David Schafferius, of 279 Ann St., saw one on the Gunalda Range on Wednesday night and took seven photographs of it. Unfortunately, for Chronicle purposes they are in colour and have to be sent away for processing. Mr. Schafferius said that the UFO was sighted between 9.15 and 9.30 p.m., moving up and down within 1000 feet from the ground to no lower than 300 feet. He lost sight of it after about 10 minutes when it disappeared over a hill.

A Childers resident saw an object in the sky on Monday night between 11.20 and 11.30 o'clock. She said the noise resembled a plane, but it hovered up and down to and fro with the noise getting louder, then softer. The noise lasted for two or three minutes, she said. She added that it seemed to be just above the rooftops and had started three or four dogs barking in another street. They did not stop until the object disappeared. It disappeared northward sending an amber and red bright glow which shone brightly across her bed and on a white wardrobe. "I don't believe in flying saucers", she added, "but I do believe they are warning signs of the times".

MILK TANKER "PACED" BY UFO

(Saturday Evening Mercury, Hobart, 26/7/1975)

The driver of a milk tanker got the shock of his life earlier this month when he found a UFO pacing him just south of Campbell Town. The driver (he asked not to be named) could hardly believe his eyes, but there it was with one bright light and other lights ranging from orange to amber in colour.

The driver described the UFO as being "about the size of my milk tanker". It was flying below the level of the hills and was estimated to be 1000 feet up, and about 200 yards from the main road. It flew out of sight, but then reappeared near Tunbridge: "It came from behind a hill, and made a slight turn towards me", the driver told the UFO Investigation Centre. What appeared to be door hatches and windows could be clearly seen along the UFO as it headed away in a southerly direction. The tanker driver drew the attention of the UFO to another person (sic) who has also made a confirmatory report to the Investigation Centre.

The Centre's investigator (Mr. K. Bennetto) said the sighting had been logged as a UFO. There were no planes in the area at the time (8.5 p.m.), and all other possibilities had been ruled out. As reports are published people who have been reluctant to report sightings in the past are now coming forward. One such case is a sighting made by George McHugh, of the Ball and Chain Restaurant, Hobart. He made a sighting on October 21, 1972, and has only now contacted the Centre. He said he was "very shaken at the time". He saw his UFO about 2 a.m. near Lewisham. It cruised along a valley and a powerful light beam from it illuminated stock in the area. Mr. McHugh, a well-travelled man, estimated the UFO to be half the size of a modern jumbo jet. The craft was pulsing all the time. The sighting lasted for three minutes and then the UFO flew quickly in the direction of Port Arthur....

THE SNOWMAN SAYS...

(Cooma-Monaro Express, NSW, 29/7/75)

Maybe they're coming! Sketchy reports have reached this office in recent days of folk seeing strange lights in the sky over the district the weekend before last. Few want to comment for fear of being laughed at, but I have it on good authority that these mysterious lights were seen in the night sky, almost simultaneously over the Murrumbidgee River, Cooma and near Bombala. To boot, a UFO was also tracked on radar near Canberra. Hmmm! Hope they're friendly.

FARMER RECALLS UFO SIGHTING

(Bunbury Times (WA), 14/8/75)

A Dardanup farmer has recalled details of an early-morning sighting of an unexplained object that he made nearly four months ago on his property. Representatives of Bunbury Unexplained Phenomena Investigation Bureau asked him to recall details of the sighting on April 25 so that records could be kept of the incident.

The farmer, who does not wish to be named, said that with another man he was herding his cattle for milking at 5.30 a.m. when it was as black as pitch. About 800 metres away in his 16 hectare paddock he saw a glow and what appeared to be the faint outline of a superstructure against the sky. Two beams of light, like the twin headlights of a motor car, seemed to shine from each side of the object. But the beams were perpendicular to his line of vision and merely provided a glow. The base of the object was fairly long and flat and was engulfed in flame, like a rocket taking off. The glow seemed to light up the paddock with a sort of sunset effect.

The farmer said that he had a big Euclid scraper working in the paddock at the time, spreading sand over clay. He knew it was parked somewhere in that locality with a tank of 70 hectolitres of diesel fuel. His first thought was that someone had set the fuel alight. Then he realised that the Euclid was not in precisely the same direction as the glow. He was fully occupied with the herding, particularly when a couple of fractious cows tried to double back to their calves, which were in another paddock. When he finished milking he went across on a motorcycle to investigate but found no trace of anything. The paddock had been completely burnt some weeks before but he could not find a mark of any sort on the sandy surface.....

UFO SIGHTING BY NULLARBOR GANG

(PERTH Daily News, 15/8/75)

Kalgoorlie, Today: A gang of railway workers on the trans-Australian line near Zanthus, 210 km east of here, claim to have seen an unidentified flying object three times in the past fortnight. The latest sighting was reported last night by fitter Mr. Henry Lesay, 21. He said a huge saucer-shaped object with flashing lights appeared in the sky at about 6.30 p.m. Multi-coloured light from the object lit up the tops of trees as it came within 5 km of the gang. It appeared to land and shortly after reappeared in the sky and took off in a westerly direction towards Kalgoorlie, Mr. Lesay said. "It had fire and smoke trailing behind".

He said the sighting was the third in two weeks. The object appeared to be much bigger than a jumbo jet. The UFO appeared in the sky at the same time each night and always travelled in the same direction. Mr. Lesay said a broadcast of last night's Test cricket stopped while the UFO was in the sky. "And we couldn't stop the dogs from barking", he said. "They went mad". The men reported the sightings to the Kalgoorlie office of the D.C.A.

LIGHT IN THE SKY SETS A POSER

(West Australian, 2/10/1975)

A number of Narrogin people say they are puzzled about the appearance of a mysterious light over the district during the past year. One farmer has reported seeing the light on a hill on his property at least 15 times since last Christmas. He has driven to the hill taking the only road and found nothing.

Speculation about the strange light has grown in recent weeks since the discovery of a flattened area of wheat crop on the property of Mr. F. Chadwick, in Murrinmuckin Road, about 10 km east of Narrogin. The flattened section of crop measured 18 m by 12 m. "We noticed it immediately as we were driving past", said Mrs. Chadwick yesterday. "It looks as though something has just sat down on the crop". She said that word of the discovery had quickly spread around the district and people were now linking it with the appearance of the light.

A neighbouring farmer, Mr. Peter Trefort, is the man who has reported seeing the light many times on the hill on his property. "I have known about it for a long time", he said. "But I've never said anything because people might think the whole thing a bit queer. But it has definitely been up there - a bright light like the landing lights of an aircraft. I saw it every night for a week at one stage - and that was the only time it has scared me.

Mr. Trefort said he had driven to the hill to check the light because he was worried about his sheep and cattle. He knew it was not caused by somebody with a spotlight because he travelled by the only road. It was a one-way road and if anybody left the hill he would have to drive past him. "I haven't got a clue what it is but I know it isn't a prankster", he said. "He would have got sick of the joke after all this time".

Mr. Ron Edwards, who lives in the townsite, said that he knew about seven responsible local residents who had seen the light. He said: "It is the same light all the time. It changes colour as it moves along the horizon, and even appears to revolve. It travels slowly but when it takes off it moves fast and leaves only a white streak in the sky".

Mr. Edwards said he had seen the light since Christmas, but had said nothing for fear of what people might think. Now that so many others had also seen it, he felt free to speak.

The above two news items were supplied to us by one of our members in W.A., Mr. Jeff Bell. In September this year Mr. Bell and two colleagues formed a new organisation known as UFO Research, W.A., and VUFORS wishes Mr. Bell and his colleagues success in their UFO investigating activities in that state. Although UFORWA was unable to send a representative to the Terrigal conference, they sent a message of support which was read to the conference by the chairman. A recent bulletin from ACOS carries a report on preliminary investigations in the Narrogin area carried out by UFORWA members, Mr. S. Briggs and Mr. A. Fiannaca:

....One report by Mr. V. who went outside on the back porch at 0005 on the 22d. September; while he was outside his attention was drawn to a very bright light in the sky north of his residence. He observed the light for approx. 8 minutes, and while observing he noticed one very bright yellow light with two or three smaller and duller lights on both sides of the object, which lights could only be seen occasionally. Mr. V. said at first he thought it was some people with a spotlight, but after further observations he discounted the idea. Later in the week, a few people in town told Mr. V. they had also seen similar lights in the sky.

Mr. E. was ploughing a field on Mr. K's farm in the middle of June this year at 2115, when he noticed a very bright yellowish orange object. It travelled in a straight line at first then stopped. The object travelled E to NW, and approx. 10 degrees from the horizon. Mr. E. observed the object for 1 hour 17 minutes. After stopping, the object moved up and down, left to right. It seemed to be cigar shaped while moving, and dome shaped and blue with a shimmering effect while stationary. It was spinning in a clockwise direction. When the object eventually disappeared from view, it streaked off at a phenomenal speed straight up at an angle of 90 degrees. The weather was clear, no clouds, slight wind.

Mrs. E., whilst on the front verandah of her residence in February at 2300 had her attention attracted by a very bright blinking light. The object was about 47 degrees up from the horizon and in a NNE direction. As Mrs. E. observed the object it moved up and down and left to right. Mrs. E. said while she was observing she felt uncomfortable. It was a bright yellow colour with smaller red lights on the sides. A friend who was with Mrs. E. also observed the object. The sky was clear, slight wind. Duration of observation was approximately 10 minutes....

Investigations are continuing, and samples from the depression area are being analysed.

UFOLOGISTS AMONG THE ICEBERGS

UFO activity in Iceland has apparently prompted the formation of a new investigation group in that country. The Society has received the organisations first report, part of which is reproduced below (with some grammatical errors corrected):

This is the first report from the Icelandic Research Institute for Unknown Natural Phenomena in English. It is an independent, and we hope, quarterly publication for study of unknown natural phenomena, and not least for study on UFOs. H.I.R.O.N. (Hin íslenska rannsóknarstofnun óþekktra náttúrufyrirbrigða) was founded in a rather unusual manner and place, or aboard an Icelandic trawler, November the 8th, 1974, at 64° 36'N and 35° 06'W by Mr. Karl E. Vernhardsson, president of HIRON, and three of the crew. HIRON has been rapidly expanding since, and today there are 50 members....

....On the morning of January the 9th at approximately 11.00h, Mr. Sighvatur Asbjarnarson, farmer on a farm called Gudmundarstadir in Vopnafjörður on the east coast of Iceland, was coming from his barn when he saw a very bright light south of the farm. The light filled a little valley and made the whole surroundings glow like silver. (The valley was about 5 miles from the barn) From the middle of the valley came a tremendously bright lightball, as Mr. Asbjarnarson described it. The lightball was about the size of the sun but much brighter. It slowly went straight upward to about 1500 feet. There it stood still for about one minute and went down again very slowly. It went under the horizon and disappeared. After that the valley glowed like something which Mr. Asbjarnarson had never seen before. The shining of that ball was so bright that the farmer almost got blind. He was so shocked that he was not able to talk for a few minutes. The weather was a little foggy, visibility about 10 km and cloudy. There was no wind at the time. This all lasted for about 3 minutes and, and no one saw this phenomenon other than Mr. Asbjarnarson.

....On January the 26th, hundreds of eyewitnesses saw, from a town called Husavík in northern Iceland, an aerial phenomenon in direction WSW of Husavík at about 40 km distance, and at height about 5000 feet. Mr. KEV(HIRON) talked to one of the witnesses who said: "It was about 20.30 we saw four lights, big as the sun and very bright, WSW of the town. One of the lights was under the other lights, but a little reddish. They were all ball-like and seemingly individual, but a thread of light connected them. They were never steady, and drifted slowly away. This lasted until 2100.

Then again on March the 4th came a report from Mr. Armann Gunnarson, zoologist from Svarvadardal, which is a big valley about 25 km from Akureyri (Northern Iceland). His report is as follows: "I was driving in the valley, going to a friend of mine. The sky was clear and temp. about minus 15c and no wind gusting. Suddenly I saw a 'fireball' coming from the south at about 6000 feet, heading very fast downward, (the mountains are 5000 ft at most) and coming towards me. When I first saw it it must have been at 5 km distance. I drove on and kept looking at it. After about two minutes I stopped the car and went out. Then this phenomenon was at about 5-600 feet, and one km straight ahead, flying straight level, but suddenly changed its course into a little valley west of me, then it flew slowly over the mountains and disappeared. This phenomenon was absolutely noiseless, and like a football in size. The light coming from it was like light coming from two windows where light is shining through, but much brighter. No light fell on the hill slopes from it. I am certain that this phenomenon was flown by some intelligence. This lasted for about 20 - 30 minutes. The day after I talked to the tower at Akureyri airport, and was informed that no airplanes had been over this area at that time".

UFOS OVER RARATONGA

(Pacific Islands Monthly, July, 1975)

Two strange flying objects were sighted near the Arorangi district of Raratonga early on April 24 by Mr. Rena Jonassen and his wife, who were at their home in Vaiokura. They watched the phenomenon for about half an hour, writes Don Percival. At first, they saw an object of a phosphorescent sea-blue colour either floating on the ocean or hovering just above the surface. It was a clear moonlit night and the sea was very calm. After about 30 minutes it was joined by a second one. Later they took off together and flew out to sea, climbing rapidly. As they flew away their blue light changed to a very powerful bright white and they rapidly diminished in size.

Between 7.30 and 7.40 p.m. on March 3, two members of the Raratonga Golf Club, Bill Quinn and Larry Price, watched a UFO pass over the clubhouse and disappear over Black Rock Quarry and towards Arorangi. They saw it emerge from a bank of black cloud, and as it passed over them, the ground around the clubhouse was brightly illuminated by the object's lights. It appeared to be at a very low altitude, and seemed to have a revolving circle of lights and large tail like a comet. But it was in controlled flight and was in view for about 25 seconds. Whatever it was, it was not a meteorological balloon, although it had appeared from the direction of Raratonga airport. These balloons are released twice daily, at 12 noon or 12.30 p.m., and 12 midnight. The night balloons are illuminated by a small low-powered electric battery - and they don't fly on a straight and level course. No balloon had been released by the meteorological station that night between 7.30 and 7.40.

The first reported sighting of flying saucers over Raratonga was made to me by my son William, aged 15. About 7 p.m. on December 4 last year, William and four other boys were walking through Te Puka village, which is adjacent to the airport. The sun was sinking and the evening shadows were closing in. All the boys saw four flying objects emerge from a bank of black cloud to the north, circular in shape and flying line abreast. They flew in a straight line for several seconds, and each had a revolving circle of blue-green lights underneath. Then they flew into an area of blue sky. About 6 seconds later the objects broke formation and shot upwards in different directions and at fantastic speeds. They left two trails of white vapour - or something that looked like it - in their wake.

On Jan. 21, William was about to go to bed in his home in Te Puka village. He was looking through the window at the stars around midnight. The sky was bright and clear. He saw one of the "stars" suddenly move towards the mountains, zigzagging through the air as if out of control. It was orange coloured. Suddenly, the light changed to sparkling white, then back to orange, then sparkling up again. When it neared the mountain it climbed, and then became stationary. After a while William gave up watching it and went to bed.

MORE UFO ACTIVITY IN PERU (Hobart Mercury, 11/8/1975)

....At 10.30 p.m. on August 5, 1974, a Benedictine nun, Sister Marjorie, happened to look up at the stars at the lonely outpost of Copachica, on a peninsula reaching into Lake Titicaca, high up on the top of the world. With her was a Peruvian schoolteacher. "I saw some lights moving in from the stars towards us, to a hill less than half a mile away", recalls Sister Marjorie. "There were two lights, both very, very bright yellow. They seemed to be in formation, as with planes, with one slightly above the other and to the side. They maintained this formation, coming down in a series of step movements. They came from above the mountains and across the sky, drawing much closer to us. We watched them for ten minutes before they disappeared behind the hill. I think they were flying saucers".... Late last February, at about the same hour, Sister Marjorie saw a similar sight, this time near another hill on the opposite side of the camp. She told her colleagues, and two priests then admitted that they had seen a "large grey cylinder shaped object" take off from the hill where she had seen the single light.....

LANDING AT AISCHE-EN-REFAIL

(The following Belgian case was investigated by the Societe Belge D'Etude Des Phenomenes Spatiaux (SOBEPS), and reported in SOBEPS' bi-monthly journal "Inforespace", No. 16, 1974. The incident occurred just after 4 O'clock on Jan. 24, 1974, a few km from Namur. SOBEPS has kindly supplied us with this translation by Carine Houbaille).

On that day the sky was clear, the wind moderate, the temperature fresh but normal for the season. It must have been a little more than 16 o'clock. Mrs. N.D., driving her Volkswagen "Coccinelle" in perfect condition, was on her way home alone and, leaving Perwez behind her, had just passed the Chaussee Brunehaut. She was approaching at high speed a slight hill when she noticed a red coloured form maybe 150 metres from her car, on the left side of the road, level with the ground.

The lone witness of this adventure knows this little provincial road which joins Perwez to Liernu across country very well; the circulation there is sparse. The landscape is composed of cultivated lands, some farms which you can reach by rural roads, and lightly valed ground. The red form appeared a bit unusual but Mrs. N.D.'s attention was immediately monopolised by the strange behaviour of her vehicle: at the same time, unaccountably, the motor's system began to slow down in spite of the insistent pedal appeals. The witness's first idea was that her petrol's provision was consumed but a glance at the gauge showed that she was wrong. Was the carburettor blocked, perhaps? The vehicle's speed continued to slow down. Moreover, the car's radio lost its power and finally, there was complete silence.

The Volkswagen was now engaged on a soft slope; it travelled another 100 metres and then stopped: the motor stalled. The witness had never shifted the gear stick nor operated the clutch. The ignition key was still in place and the radio's light was still on even with the vehicle stopped (in 4th). Maybe a mechanical failure?

Mrs. N.D. was ready to get out of her car. Her hand on the door's handle, she instinctively raised her eyes. Then she preferred to stay in her car. There at 10 metres from her was an object on the left side of the road at the asphalt's limit, which looked like nothing known. It must have had a diameter of a metre and a total height of half a metre; of a circular shape. Mrs. N.D. could clearly see three different parts:

1. the lower part (largest) presented the form of a dome section. This part was white and sprinkled regularly with big round spots.
2. the median part was convexed also but of a smaller diameter. It was in harmony with the first part; it was yellow, not luminous, without any other details.
3. the top had the form of a red flattened dome of a height less than a third of the object's vertical axis. It is this upper part which first drew the witness's attention.

The whole gave an impression of solid material, of unpolished metal without any reflection, brightness or brilliant part, like when the sun, at its wane, overflows its pale rays onto the adjacent country without incommoding the vision. In the four or five seconds which followed, observer and observed kept prudent. Then the object began to move. Slowly, without oscillations, keeping its horizontal plane, it rose up maybe 50 cm and descended immediately, much quicker than when it took off, to remake contact with the ground. This game was repeated a second time two seconds later. Mrs. N.D., in the silence of her car, of which the doors and windows were closed, thought that: "she was living her last moments and would be reduced to dust".

For the third time the object rose up slowly and regularly three or four metres above the ground. Then it executed a horizontal movement towards the car. The witness at that moment lost sight of it; she thinks that the UFO went and hovered over the vehicle's roof. She had time however to see the lower part of the object which until then had always been concealed from her and which was flat and uniform grey without details.

After a few seconds it reappeared to the left, at an altitude of almost metres (sic). Brusquely it went off, following a curved trajectory, in the direction of a range of poplars, situated 270 metres from there, of which it slowly touched the top when passing. This movement had taken place in a vertical plane, that is, without zig-zags, balancings or oscillations; no sound was heard; the colours underwent no change, and whilst taking off didn't leave any trail. It was then that the perplexity of the witness reached its paroxysm because, at the same time, without the starter being operated or anything being touched, the car's motor came to life and, still in 4th gear, the vehicle got under way, progressively gaining speed. Mrs. N.D. didn't have much time to question herself about the 'absurd' nature of this incident: already the imperatives of the road took all her attention. Only too happy to leave such a place without any problems, once again she could see the object departing in an ENE direction without gaining altitude, and without hesitation she returned home....

....Less than 48 hours later we were on the spot, hoping to find physical evidence of this landing. This hope was futile; at the place indicated by the witness, the clayish and denuded ground at that season was uniform with everywhere else; a test of the surrounding radioactivity and ionisation gave no results; idem for the vehicle. Apart from anxiety (provoking several nightmares attested by members of her relations) and an abnormal lassitude, the witness didn't suffer from secondary effects.

Moreover, no other vehicles passed on the road during the two or three minutes of the observation, and a discreet sounding among the sparse inhabitants of the district didn't furnish us with any interesting information. Were we facing a misunderstanding, a joke or hoax? We don't think so. But it is nonetheless regrettable that this observation had only one witness. We questioned this lady for almost 6 hours, in two sessions, without finding a change in her first declarations. The same tension, the same sensation of disquietude was shown at the same passages. The nightmares remained several days and were verified by some near relations of Mrs. N.D., who stated that she had never accorded the slightest interest "to those flying saucer stories". Actually, just like before, she doesn't believe in UFOs. She says: "Finally it was very beautiful; a show that I will never forget all my life. If this were to happen again, I think that I would go out of the car this time. Do you think 'someone' could have been inside such a small object?"

LANDING IN ITALY

The following is a summary of a case reported in "Notiziario UFO", journal of the Milan-based group, Centro Ufologico Nazionale. Society member Mrs. M. Lovass has supplied us with the translation. (Notiziario UFO, Jul-Dec., 1974)

On July 10, 1974, at about 10 p.m. on the outskirts ENE of the town of Pavia, Italy, three young girls were about to enter their respective homes, when one of them, Giovanna Ragni, noticed a luminous object wavering slowly in the sky. By the time she alerted the other two girls the object grew to 1½ times the size of the moon, of an orangey-reddish colour. When it passed over them, they instinctively raised their arms in greeting. They observed intermittent white lights emitted from the lower part of the object and not stronger than ordinary light bulbs. The object made a wide curve noticeably slowing in speed, and took a rectilinear trajectory with the lights disappearing behind a palace. Running along the street, they were able to see the object approximately 2000 metres away, disappearing in the distance.

Minutes later they retraced for their homes and Giovanna Ragni, who was most impressed by the phenomena, told her parents that she saw a flying saucer, who disbelieved her, but on her insistence went on to the balcony, and in the direction indicated by the girl they saw a round reddish and stationary object hovering above the ground, pulsating regularly with a brilliant red-orange light.

Giovanna's brother decided to ring the fire brigade and on explaining what happened, they replied that they couldn't intervene as it was not a regular fire. Other persons in the street saw the object, but only the Ragni family decided to investigate. They drove in the car in the direction where the object landed. After some time they finished in a small lane and, not noticing anything unusual, they decided to turn back.

(Continued)

LANDING IN ITALY (Continued)

At this moment they saw about 300 metres away an orangey round object which emitted bundles of white light from the top with perfect regularity. Estimated diameter of the object was 8 - 10 metres. Giovanna's brother, who was driving the car, became frightened and started to turn back. His mother noticed two important particulars: something like a cushion of white powder between the object and the ground, and lights fixed on the lower part of the body lighting up the ground underneath, confirming that it had been hovering.

On returning home, Giovanna's brother rang the police who, after some minutes of incredulity, decided to investigate. With the patrol car guided by the boy they came to the spot, but found nothing. But when examining the area with searchlights, they noticed two rectangular impressions which seemed to be burned and superficially covered with ashes.

UFO SIGHTED ON THREE OCCASIONS IN TUMBA DISTRICT

(Tumbarumba Times, NSW, 1/10/1975)

Three sightings were made of a mysterious red object in the sky near Tumbarumba early last week. The incandescent red glow of the object was reported by three people on the same night. All reports have been verified and a time sequence shows that the mystery object could have been the same.

Senior Constable Martin of the Tumbarumba Police said that Mr. Wayne Lapworth, of Pound Creek, had reported seeing a red to purple light move from the ridge of one hill to the ridge of another at 9.20 p.m. on Monday, Sep. 22. The light was travelling very slowly and travelled about two miles while Mr. Lapworth watched it. The light was accompanied by a noise like that from a large jet engine. The RAAF base at Forest Hill was contacted regarding aircraft movement in the area at the time and they informed the Tumbarumba Police Station that a similar sighting had taken place at Adelong at 9.15 p.m.

The following day, Mr. George Sharman, Officer-in-Charge of the Tumbarumba Ambulance Station, contacted the "Times" and reported seeing the mysterious red object in the sky at Maragle at about the same time the previous night. Mr. Sharman said that the light was travelling slowly across the sky from east to west and was 300 to 400 feet above the level of the roadway. The object appeared to be about 12 inches high and had a similar motion to a helicopter. Mr. Sharman said he was very frightened by the sighting and that he had stopped his vehicle.

Two landholders in the area, Mr. Gordon Bell and Mr. Max Williams, were asked if they had seen anything unusual on the night in question. Both said they hadn't seen anything, but they both had heard a jet plane fly low overhead. Both assumed it was an RAAF F111. All evidence so far indicates that an unusual and unidentified object was present on the night of September 21.

Three other factors add to the mystery:

* In the vicinity of the sighting, sophisticated electronic sensing and radio navigation devices are located on Clarke's Hill and the Granites. Other such installations exist at Corryong and at Cabramurra.

* On the night of the sighting, a party of international experts in electronics, physics and power transmission were visiting the area.

* On Wednesday a party of RAAF personnel were seen in the Clarke's Hill-Granites area.

It may be that no more will be heard of the incident, but the RAAF Base at Wagga has been asked to check with Operations at Amberly regarding the possibility of jet night training in the area on the night in question.

INFORMAL MEMBERS' EVENING

A Society member has made her Brighton home available for an informal meeting of members on Friday, December 12, at 8 p.m. There is no formal agenda for the occasion, but it will be an opportunity for members to meet for discussion, and the library service will be available. Members wishing to attend should ring Mrs. Briggs on 908819, evenings before 10 p.m.

It would be appreciated if each of those attending could bring a contribution of food towards supper.

BACK ISSUES OF "FLYING SAUCER REVIEW"

Seven different issues of the Society's printed magazine, "Australian Flying Saucer Review", are still in stock. Those available are:

Nos. 6 (Dec. 66), 7 (67), 8 (68)....40¢ each (US50¢ overseas)

Nos. 2 (Jul. 70), 3 (Dec. 70), 4 (Feb. 72), 5 (Dec. 72)25¢ each (US35¢ overseas)

Postage charges extra: (increased following the new postage rates)

For one copy....	30¢ within Australia,	US45¢ overseas
Two to four copies	40¢ " " ,	US60¢ " "
Five to eight copies....	60¢ " " ,	US\$1 " "

NEW LIBRARY LIST

A new list of the books available for borrowing from VUFORS Library has been prepared. Over the years the Society has effectively operated the mailing system, under which members are charged a small borrowing fee to cover postage costs. Unfortunately, the new postage rates mean a severe financial imposition on the running of the library, and we have been forced to increase the borrowing fee per book to 35¢. At this rate, the Society will be making some loss, as this figure will not cover the postage on some of the larger books.

We decided not to use up valuable weight and space by sending the new list to everybody in this Bulletin. Instead, we ask those members wanting the list to contribute a little towards expenses by applying for one by mail, and enclosing an 19¢ stamp for the return postage.

EXPERT OPINION FOR THE SCEPTIC

Professor Donald H. Menzel, Director of Harvard College Observatory:

"I have shown that the arguments advanced in favour of the interplanetary nature of UFOs are fallacious. Their alleged high speeds and ability to manoeuvre have completely natural explanations".

Dr. George R. Wait, of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, leading authority on the ionosphere:

"If the reports of reversals, sharp turns and descents are fully confirmed, then no natural phenomena, to my knowledge, would explain such sightings".